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THE ALBERTA

Counsellor

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

July, 1959

351 CHEQUES TOTAL \$15,000,000

21st ANNUAL REFRESHER COURSE

SECRETARIES MEET AT BANFF

Amid the splendour of the Canadian Rockies, the refresher course of municipal secretary-treasurers came of age last June 8 to 10. Held in the new wing of the Banff School of Fine Arts, the six sessions of the 21st annual course were attended by some seventy to eighty secretary-treasurers, reeves and councillors, Departmental people and visitors, all of them enthusiastic over the whole thing.

It was Angus Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, who dubbed it "the coming of age course". To D.N. Gardiner, Secretary-Treasurer of Rocky View, the course "stood on the threshold of manhood". Don Bancroft, representing the University's Department of Extension, said he had been reading the records of some of the early meetings which discussed problems similar to those existing today. "You are a durable group," he concluded, "with equally durable problems."

Called to order by President Olaf Monsson, the opening session got underway with words of welcome from representatives of the Banff School, the Park Administration and others. Charles Hayes, President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts said the Association executive was in full attendance. As in former years, Mr. Hayes had words of thanks for the work of all secretary-treasurers, saying that their services are "keenly appreciated by the average councillor". He said he'd like to see a discussion of possible changes in their pension plan, and hoped that all councils would refund tuition fees of secretary-treasurers and assessors who were taking the courses in public administration.

In his address on "Legal Problems", Alan Brownlee, Q.C., dealt with the legality of municipalities doing custom work for individual ratepayers with machinery belonging to the municipal corporation. He said this practice seemingly had grown from doing a small favor to a neighbor (snowplowing a driveway, blading a farm entrance) to what in some cases might be termed big business. Quoting precedent and statute at some length, Mr. Brownlee said complaints being raised by commercial contractors were not unreasonable. He dealt with exemption from licensing regulations (not applicable to machines doing work other than for the district as a whole), the responsibility of individual councillors, liability under Workmen's Compensation, the question of sales tax and the future policy of municipalities. He said the final word on most of these questions would have to come from the Courts, but his personal view in the matter ("it may not be too popular") was that the practice is not legal and could place a municipality in "a difficult position". (More on Page 5)

FIRST RURAL FIRE UNIT

Most modern of its kind in rural Alberta, the Leduc Rural Fire Fighting Association recently took delivery of a fine new pumper from the King Seagrave Company. Organization of the Association followed discussions held during the past year after several disastrous fires were experienced in the district.

The new unit is housed in the Town of Leduc and when needed will be brought to the fire by two members of the town brigade. Completely owned by the 200 members of the Association, it will serve an area 15 miles around Leduc.

LITTLE CHANGE FROM 1958

For the second year in a row, the sum of \$15,000,000 has been allocated unconditionally to Alberta's municipalities. Some 351 cheques totalling this amount go into the mail early in July.

Revenue shared under the old Municipal Assistance Act (by which one half the revenue from the Fuel Oil Tax Act was distributed among the municipal units) reached a total of \$56,461,166 during the seven years it was in effect. Under the Municipalities' Assistance Act of 1958, the amount is not tied to the Fuel Oil Tax Act returns but is set out annually in the Estimates. Revenues shared unconditionally under the two Acts since 1951 total \$86,461,166.

A summary of the distribution for this year and the corresponding totals last year follow:

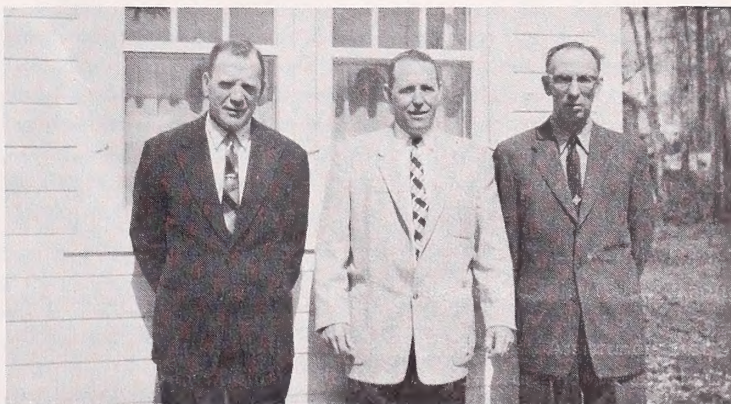
	1959	1958
Cities (10)	\$ 5,862,351.85 (10)	\$ 5,781,823.72
Towns (85)	1,946,333.20 (86)	1,892,279.93
Villages (156)	578,401.36 (152)	563,065.41
Counties (12)	1,614,631.91 (10)	1,364,289.32
Municipal Districts (36)	4,292,298.49 (38)	4,671,602.09
Improvement Districts (47)	578,284.89 (47)	596,774.57
Special Areas (1)	92,144.33 (1)	95,434.68
School Districts in		
National Parks (4)	35,553.97 (4)	34,730.28
	\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00

PETER MACDONALD RETIRES

Marking his retirement as Secretary-Treasurer of the County of Ponoka No. 3, Peter MacDonald was honored at a banquet held on June 25th in the United Church Hall at Ponoka. In attendance were members of the office staff, officials of the Town and the County of Ponoka, friends and relatives. Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector, represented the Department of Municipal Affairs, while neighboring counties and municipal districts sent representatives to honor their veteran colleague.

During the evening, Mr. MacDonald was presented with a wrist (To Page 8)

COUNCIL of the VILLAGE of WHITECOURT



Residents of the new village of Whitecourt chose J. Braithwaite, Mayor C.M. Feero, A. J. Millar to serve them. Cecil McIlwaine is secretary-treasurer. (See story on Page 4)

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

I'VE HEARD IT SAID

I've heard it said the world's a dismal place.
But I know better . . .
for I have seen the dawn, and walked
in the splendor of a morning's sun . . .
blinked at the brilliance of the dew and beheld
the gold and crimson
of an autumn landscape.

I've heard it said the world is sad.
I can't agree . . .
for I have heard the cheerful songs
of feathered masters . . . heard the low laughing
of the leaves, and the everlasting chuckle
of a mountain brook.

- Bernard J. Patrick
in IDEALS

NOTEBOOK AT BANFF

Has anybody anywhere anytime travelled a mountain road smoother, more gradually rising, more gently curving than that black ribbon leading to Banff? Sure, some may prefer the old route (and we hope it will remain with us) but the new highway has everything . . . including safety . . . built right in. Naturally there are those imponderables peering through their windshields. Engineers can't do as much for them. Too bad.

W.F. Broadstock, veteran Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Jasper Place, likes the Course. "I get a lot out of these meetings," he said, "proof of which I keep coming back year after year". The applause which followed this remark could have been a tribute to the man. Or an expression of agreement. Probably both.

It seems unfortunate that the municipal sessions were attended by so few town secretary-treasurers. With the Certificate Course going so well, isn't it time for all secretary-treasurers to get together?

A prominent guest was Clifford Rankin, Municipal Administration Advisor with Saskatchewan's Department of Municipal Affairs. "I'm attending this school", said Mr. Rankin, "for the purpose of obtaining all the information that I can relative to the operation of a county". He continued: "It is very noticeable that, regardless of the type of local government administration carried on here as well as in Saskatchewan, the basic problems are the same, one being the matter of divisional apportionment. I think the school is providing a wonderful service for the secretary-treasurers and I am enjoying it immensely".

Another important guest was A.W. Vincent, President of the Manitoba Municipal Secretary-Treasurers' Association. We found we had much to talk about. Mr. Vincent likes Alberta and, inasmuch as we were born at Boissevain, we in turn have considerable regard for Manitoba.

Mr. Vincent told us he was town clerk in Boissevain for some time. We told him of going back in 1957 to the celebration marking 75 years of settlement in the Boissevain district. "I was there too," exclaimed Mr. Vincent. Small world?

Speaking of bears, Frank Ewing and Reeve Tom Chamberlain now have a good story of their own. It seems Frank had a couple of cubs in the lens of his Leica when their mother took a dismal view of the whole procedure. With Tom ready for a quick getaway, Frank finally settled for a shot through the windshield. "Trouble is", he gloomed, "it's probably going to be out of focus. I had the camera set for sixty feet, but by the time I snapped it, she was bearing down from about thirty. Didn't wait for a second shot."

During the discussion of the value of news media in public relations, The COUNSELLOR was given a very nice bouquet. Thank you, gentlemen; such words are always appreciated.

In passing on a suggestion or two received from utility companies (e.g. notification re widening and back-sloping right-of-way) Ian

Morris, member of the Assessment Appeal Board, must have struck a nerve. What he thought was a little kindness covering a minute or two turned into something else lasting over half an hour.

What with those wide picture windows opening on three sides for some of the grandest scenery on earth, we must confess a little trouble concentrating on the proceedings inside. Without prejudice, let's add especially Wednesday morning . . . with the snow sifting down on the upper levels like powdered sugar on a cake. Beautiful Banff. Beautiful, beautiful Alberta.

Deo Volente, we'll see you all again . . . next year.

TO CATHERINE FORREST

Miss Catherine I. Forrest has written thirty to her editorship of the Western Municipal News, an office which she has served well during the past twelve years. Neither the space in these columns nor the uncertain pen of this writer are adequate to express the esteem and recognition merited by one who has served so devotedly and made so notable a contribution to civic affairs.



Born at Souris, Manitoba, Miss Forrest's life has been one of dedicated public service, beginning at a tender age as editor of the Souris high school paper. After graduating from high school she read law extramurally, passed four examinations and attended a final term at the University of Manitoba where she received her degree in law quite early in life. After sixteen years in the municipal office of Cameron municipality and Hartney town she was admitted to the Bar in 1935. She later took office as secretary-treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Old Kildonan and served in that capacity until the time of her appointment as editor of the Western Municipal News.

During her term of office in Old Kildonan Miss Forrest served on the executive of the Manitoba Municipal Secretary-treasurers' Association and became its secretary-treasurer, vice-president and president. As president of this association and later as a member of a special committee established for the purpose, she was largely responsible for the implementation of the existing pension plan for municipal secretary-treasurers.

Miss Forrest is well known and loved throughout Western Canada where no convention was considered complete without her presence. As editor of the News, her patience and considerate support has been a source of strength and encouragement to her correspondents. Her unselfish devotion to public service has led her far beyond her line of duty, and merits the highest esteem. Her pleasant disposition has endeared her to all who have had the good fortune of cultivating her acquaintance. Her determined efforts have served to promote the welfare of even those whom she has never seen.

Miss Forrest's plans for the immediate future are "a long holiday" which is undoubtedly well deserved. We can be sure that there will never be a dull or idle moment in her life. And so we join Miss Forrest's host of friends in saying "well done Katie, we hope we'll be seeing you from time to time."
(Western Municipal News)

THIS MONTH

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"... A FINE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN NEW KNOWLEDGE."

THE COURSE COMES OF AGE

BY D. N. GARDINER, SECRETARY-TREASURER, ROCKY VIEW

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. GARDINER
TO THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SECRETARY-TREASURERS' COURSE AT BANFF

I want to thank the Department of the Extension for this opportunity to discuss some of the phases and personalities associated with our Refresher Courses either preceeding or during the past 21 years. That period covers the years 1939 to 1959 inclusive and I may stray beyond that period to give some recognition to those who helped us start the first course. I propose

First: To cover that period from the inception of local self government in Alberta to the operation of the old Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, roughly the period from 1906 to 1938.

Second: Cover the organization of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers in 1921 and through 1938;

Third: To deal briefly with the 20 courses of a refresher nature in Municipal Administration sponsored by the Department of Extension;

Fourth: To make a very brief reference to the New Course, to express my personal gratification for its organization and to congratulate those who have prepared it.

Those of you who have been studying Dr. Hanson's "Local Government in Alberta" together with Professor Crawford's "Canadian Municipal Government" during the past winter, and maybe extra-curricularly Dr. Brittain's "Local Government in Canada", will have absorbed a tremendous amount of information covering the manner in which municipal government came to Canada and then to the various provinces. These very competent men have given you a thorough insight into the manner in which Section 92 of the British North America Act was interpreted by the federal authorities and subsequently by the provinces to create local government authority. I would be rash, indeed, to offer any further suggestions concerning the manner of future organization along these lines. But I do want to remind you that local government as we know it is the reason why we are in attendance here.

LIST OF 1913

Local Government in Alberta is carried out by individuals who have accepted the responsibility that their fellow citizens have asked them to undertake. I happen to have in my possession the list of "Alberta Municipalities, Urban and Rural" issued by the Department of Municipal Affairs and dated June 1, 1913. That was the year in which most of the municipal districts were set up. Also the year in which we first came in contact with the organized Local Improvement District with a Council and Secretary-Treasurer. I have gone over the list so that I could pick out those who are still actively engaged in municipal work and I have to say that there is not one secretary-treasurer appearing on the 1913 list who is still active as the secretary-treasurer of a municipal district or county.

Our respected friend E. W. Miller who was Secretary-Treasurer of the then Local Improvement District No. 312, and subsequently of Municipal District of Waterloo No. 312, is the only secretary-treasurer appearing on the 1913 list who has any direct connection with active municipal district life at the present time. Mr. Miller, as you all know from the Western Municipal News and other sources, is now active as a member of the Council of the Municipal District of Mountain View No. 49. Such a rugged personality is rare in any walk of life and obviously is more remarkable in the municipal field. Ed's service also extends beyond the 1913 list period so again we have to say he has qualities which endure.

In that list we also find the names of Ralph Greene who was the Secretary-Treasurer of Golden Centre No. 272 and now lives in retirement at Alix; G. Bruce Hunter who was the Secretary-Treasurer of Local Improvement District No. 281 and subsequently of Beaver Dam No. 281 who is now living in retirement at Dog Pound; Fred Biggs who was Secretary-Treasurer of Local Improvement District No. 337, subsequently of Municipal District of Vimy No. 337 and latterly of M.D. of Stettler No. 54 who now is enjoying his retirement in the town of Stettler. Also appearing on the 1913 list is the name of A. H. (Albert) Tovell who was then Secretary-Treasurer of Rural Municipality of Argyle No. 99. Albert left the ranks of Municipal Secretaries some years before 1920 - the year in which I cut my teeth in a municipal office - and joined the Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, first in the capacity of secretary-treasurer and latterly as the manager of the Board. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that these are the real old-timers of our municipal organization of secretary-treasurers.

TRIBUTE TO PIONEER

I am somewhat loath to single out any one particular person in my remarks but I do want to review briefly the contribution that, in my estimation, has been of extra importance to our Association and which was made by Albert Tovell. Those of you who remember the days of the Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, which incidentally terminated in 1936, will remember that Mr. Tovell was the driving force in bringing the Secretary-Treasurers of the municipal districts concerned with Hail Insurance business together annually for the purpose of instructing us in the intricate business of dealing with hail problems. He gave us the information that his Board wanted us to have to make

our public relations with our ratepayers as agreeable as possible. He made a point of bringing the new members who had joined the ranks of Municipal Secretary-Treasurers and introducing them to the assembly. Many a "young squirt" appreciated the introduction which Albert gave them and his breaking the ice for them with the other members of the profession.

These get-togethers were the starting point of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers. With the experience gained through two or three meetings together, it was realized that annual meetings of all Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers would be an excellent thing for those connected with government in municipal districts. Our Association took shape at the Convention of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts held in Edmonton in November, 1921. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution for submission to the second meeting of the new association in March of 1922. At the 1922 meeting the constitution was formally adopted. That constitution is still in use except for the amendments that have been made from time to time.

The sponsorship of the annual meetings of our Association was underwritten by the Hail Insurance Board for a considerable number of years thereafter. I have tried to find out when the last meeting was taken care of by the Hail Board and as near as I can get to it it would be about the year 1930. However, in 1927 the Board, through Mr. Tovell, provided all secretary-treasurers writing hail insurance for the Board with a \$1,000.00 group life insurance policy and continued to pay the premiums on this until our own Association took it over and had it written through Occidental Life. So Mr. Chairman you will appreciate why I think we should acknowledge publicly something of the contribution made by Albert Tovell.

ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

That fairly well takes care of the first phase of local government as applied to municipal districts up to the time of organizing our own Association in 1921. Looking back to the 1921 list of Alberta municipalities I note that there are only three active secretary-treasurers now who appeared on that list. These are Frank J. Ewing who was then Secretary-Treasurer of M.D. of Keoma No. 249 and now is the incumbent at Municipal District of Wheatland No. 40; E. J. (Eddie) Martin who used to be the Secretary-Treasurer of Municipal District of Fairview No. 858 and still occupies that same position in the re-numbered Municipal District of Fairview No. 136. I happened to be on that list also under the heading of Municipal District of Dowling Lake No. 305 and after some moves am at Municipal District of Rocky View No. 44.

Frank Ewing has served this Association well as Director, Vice-President of the group and in a continuing capacity as the Chairman of the Superannuation Board. His work on your behalf is continuous and is carried out with energy and acumen. Without his devoted service our pension plan would not have made the progress it has. Eddie Martin is a quiet sort of chap who does not do too much talking but like still waters runs deep. His contribution to the municipal life

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THE WHITECOURT STORY

BY JOHN E. POTTER,

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, I. D. 109

The year of 1959 will go down in the history of Whitecourt as a very important one, being as it is the first year of self-government for this attractive little village. The whole community is geared for action and determined to develop this important centre to the highest possible degree.

For a number of years the hamlet of Whitecourt has had the qualifications for incorporation but in the words of an old timer "nobody ever quite got around to it." However in the fall of 1958 the important step was taken. A petition for incorporation was sent to the Department of Municipal Affairs and after the usual investigation, Whitecourt was granted the status of village dating from January 1 of this year.

TWO INDIAN TRAILS

Delving into the historical background of the Whitecourt area we find that early pioneers mention a camp situated at the intersection of two well established Indian trails. This camp also was at the junction of the Athabasca and the McLeod Rivers and was undoubtedly where Whitecourt stands today.

One of these was the Woods Crees Trail from Edmonton to Grande Prairie which was used extensively by the pioneers. The other trail followed the water route along the Athabasca River from Fort Assiniboine to the Rocky Mountains, the River becoming known as part of the Transcontinental Water route developed by the early fur traders long before the arrival of any settlers. The trail forked in the Rockies and continued through either the Athabasca Pass or the Yellowhead Pass to link up with the Fraser or the Columbia River, and eventually to Fort Vancouver.

It is interesting to note that another water route was in use about this time which utilized the North Saskatchewan River through Rocky Mountain House. However this route was discontinued after 1811 in favour of the Athabasca River route.

SURVEYED IN 1907

The Village of Whitecourt lies in Section 35 - Township 59 - Range 12 - West of the 5th Meridian, and was surveyed together with township 60 in 1907 by two Dominion Land Surveyors, M. Kemp and L. E. Fontaine. This was accomplished with a party of 23 at a cost of \$2,237.12. In their report the surveyors mention a pack trail from Lac Ste. Anne to Sturgeon Lake, which was probably developed since then either as the railroad or as highway 43. They refer also to a seam of coal on the north bank of the McLeod River in section 21 and 22, and their survey showed 3 cabins which were occupied by settlers named Goodvin, Canfield and McCoy.

It was the valuable timber that drew the settlers, however, and in 1908 the government approved a post office which was operated by Walter L. White. The settlement adopted the name of Whitecourt after their first postmaster - the suffix "court" being added to match the settlement of Greencourt lying 23 miles to the south east.

A railway right-of-way plan was registered by the Canadian Northern Western Railway in 1911, but the railway was not constructed until 1921, with the station being built in 1922. This railway, as far as can be determined, was to have been built into the Peace River country, tapping the Little Smoky anthracite coal field also, but the First World War, as well as the race between the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern for the Yellowhead Route to the Pacific, intervened. What happened to the original plan is not known, but we do know that Whitecourt has made good use of its railway, and perhaps should consider itself lucky to be at the "end of the steel".

FIRST RESIDENTIAL PLANS

Records in the Land Titles Office show that the first residential subdivision was registered in 1912. This was on land owned by John Goodvin and Jas. Collisson, and provided for 185 lots plus a school site of approximately one acre. It was registered as the "Goodvin" subdivision. This first subdivision was followed by the registration of a plan by Edward Bolander, also in 1912, covering the S.W. 1/4 of



MAIN STREET of WHITECOURT - We're looking south towards the railway station. (Photo by K.M. Millar)

26-59-12-5 and providing for some 1,100 lots of much smaller size than the Goodvin plan.

Both these proposed residential areas were situated quite a distance away from the present townsite, the first approximately 3/4 mile to the north east and on very low-lying ground near the river; the other about the same distance away to the south west between the McLeod River and a creek now known as Whitecourt Creek.

Both these residential subdivisions were eventually cancelled and in 1921 a subdivision adjacent to the railway was registered by Canadian Northern Town Properties Company Limited. This plan consisted of four blocks and included the main street as it is today. A public reserve parcel was provided, but no school site was reserved. Many more subdivisions were subsequently registered and the town gradually developed in a fairly orderly manner, with the exception that the grid pattern completely disregarded land which was liable to flooding.

FLOOD PROBLEM

The probability of floods, when the ice goes out of the rivers, has always been a problem in the Whitecourt district, with considerable damage resulting from floods in years past. The McLeod River has a tendency to break up before the Athabasca and when this happens there is always the danger of ice jams occurring at or near the confluence of the rivers.

In the summer of 1957 the flood problem was given considerable attention and an intensive study of the whole area was undertaken by engineers from the Water Resources Branch of the Department of Agriculture together with the Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Aerial photos were taken from which contour plans were produced. Interim development control was established and a development officer was appointed to do what had to be done.

About this same time there was an unusual amount of activity around Whitecourt. For example, rumors of a pulp mill coming into the area resulted in many transfers of land. Interesting it is to note that there were five applications to build hotels in the hamlet. However, restrictions were placed on development pending results of the survey and development was permitted only on existing legal subdivisions.

A petition from local residents asking that they be allowed to buy crown land resulted in the Department of Lands and Forests opening up a subdivision about a mile to the south east and on Highway 43. Designed by the Town and Rural Planning Branch it provided approximately 90 residential lots, 9 highway use commercial lots, and numerous industrial lots. The new area is not within the boundary of the village but is close enough to have an influence on the village trading area.

LOCAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The work being performed by the Town and Rural Planning Branch began to interest Whitecourt residents, and at a public meeting they

(More on Page 7)

SECRETARIES MEET AT BANFF

(From Page 1)

ADDRESS ON HOSPITALIZATION

Professor J. D. Campbell, Director, Hospitals' Division of the Health Department, spoke on "The Municipality in Relation to the Alberta Hospitalization Plan". Comparing the new plan with that in effect prior to April 1, 1958, he said there has been no change in "the degree of control in the administration of the hospital. The existing boards," he continued, "were retained". Major changes were in the areas of (1) financing (the municipality is relieved of residual responsibility in respect to approved operating costs); (2) coverage (broadened to include non-ratepayers and now chronic patients); (3) capital responsibility (now belonging to the Provincial Government); (4) Indigents (Health Department pays 50% of coinsurance, collects from Welfare).

Mr. Campbell discussed capital costs which since January 1, 1959, have been the responsibility of the Province. He said this step was designed to transfer "the financial benefits arising from the Federal-Provincial agreement in part to the municipalities". He also reminded the meeting that money could be borrowed by the hospital district or municipality from the Municipal Financing Corporation for the purpose of constructing hospitals, which would then be repaid by the Province. Chronic care in ten approved chronic hospitals throughout the Province was included in the plan from last April 1st, he said, at which time the share of the municipalities was raised from 3 mills to 4 on an equalized tax basis. He added that other chronic hospitals will be built in due course.

GARDINER REMINISCES

The Monday afternoon session also featured addresses by D. N. Gardiner, Secretary-Treasurer of Rocky View M.D. No. 44, and Don Bancroft, Lecturer in Public Administration with the University's Department of Extension. Both addresses were given close attention by those in attendance. (Mr. Gardiner's reminiscences "The Course Comes of Age" appears in this issue. Mr. Bancroft's address entitled "Training and Accreditation of Secretary-Treasurers" will be published in August.)

The banquet Monday evening, enjoyed by approximately 100 guests, featured an address by Barry Nickle from CHCT-TV in Calgary.

Tuesday morning session was also an innovation inasmuch as it was taken up with a panel discussion of the work of secretary-treasurers with respect to staff, committees and public relations. E. W. Stutchbury, Q.C., served as moderator while panel members were Lloyd Williams (Stettler County), Guy Tomlinson (Paintearth), Leonard Van Tighem (Foothills), and Harry Scammel (Newell County). Mr. Stutchbury explained that beyond a few memos exchanged by the panelists, the situation was completely unrehearsed. Little time was lost in proving this assertion, but the wit displayed and the conclusions reached made this an outstanding session.

Many important subjects were discussed, but none more thoroughly than staff and public relations. Mr. Williams, who at first claimed he didn't know how to delegate authority, listed a number of duties he never touched.

"What do you do?" asked Mr. Scammel.

"My job is as much public relations as anything else", returned Lloyd. "We're very proud of our new County offices, and I sometimes spend two or three hours showing the building to our ratepayers. It's just a small building ..."

HONORS ABOUT EVEN

Coffee breaks were attacked and defended by opposing panelists, with honors about even. On delegating authority Mr. Tomlinson felt it was a question of how well-trained one's staff was and how many experts were available. The consensus was that the work of a secretary-treasurer was increasing to a point where concern with details must be reduced so as to allow more concentration on general administration.

After a coffee break of some thirty-five minutes, the panel continued their discussion of public relations. Newsletters were effective in Paintearth and Flagstaff, while various weekly newspapers were used to good advantage. Public meetings were evaluated and addresses to schools were said to be invaluable in promoting greater interest in local government.

From the floor, Mr. Broadstock, Secretary-Treasurer of the Town of Jasper Place, observed that the essence of public relations is to be able to say "no" to a ratepayer and make him like it. He said in Jasper Place the tax dollar is analyzed and bulletins containing this and other information are kept on the counter for the public.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Deputy Minister A. W. Morrison dealt with amendments to Legislation during the Tuesday afternoon session. In his opening remarks,

CHANGES COMING

Changes in the Auditors' Financial Statements as outlined by T. D. Bruce will definitely be made this year. Under consideration for some time, the new forms will be printed and mailed to secretary-treasurers as in previous years.

It is hoped to mail the forms out earlier this year for return as usual before the end of February.

he said the courses in municipal administration and assessment had succeeded "beyond all expectations". He said that with surpluses up, smaller deficits and tax collections over 100 per cent of the current levy, last year was the best financially since 1945.

Mr. Morrison went on record as being against custom work by municipal districts. He was glad Mr. Brownlee had said it was illegal and suggested that certain remedial legislation might be taken under consideration. During his review of amendments to municipal legislation, Mr. Morrison made special reference to the simplified procedure of voting on money by-laws and the tax on drilling footage which he said worked out to be "equivalent or higher than the former personal property tax". He said amendments to the Town and Rural Planning Act were extensive because of recent court decisions and were designed to encourage M.D.'s to adopt proper zoning by-laws and control, for example, of top soil removal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

Discussions during the Wednesday morning session also were led by officials of the Provincial Government. J. Bruce Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner, told the gathering that the new Assessment Act had been set over until next year. He spoke highly of the new Provincial Assessment Manual which, he proposed, would be prescribed by the Minister from July 1. "Personally", said Mr. Laidlaw, "I've never seen a better one". He said the new Manual would be used in all Alberta municipalities including cities and could be obtained from the Department at a cost of \$5.00.

Referring to farmland assessment, Mr. Laidlaw said there had been many requests to the Department for this service, but most of them had been refused due to lack of staff. He urged the rurals to employ full time assessors ("You're probably losing more than their salaries because of incomplete assessments") and added he would be glad to "have your man work with our men for experience".

Demonstrating commendable co-operation between the Departments of Municipal Affairs and Education, Don Bruce (DMA Statistician) and U. R. Shogren (Field Administrative Officer with the Department of Education) jointly explained the need for making certain changes in the financial statements mailed in each year. Mr. Bruce emphasised importance of uniformity of information which formed the basis of the Departmental Annual Reports as well as returns forwarded as a matter of official courtesy to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Describing changes in some detail, Mr. Bruce said a new "Capital and Loan Funds Surplus (Deficit) Account" will be added which will make the "Capital and Loan Funds Balance Sheet" self balancing. He also detailed changes being made in the County Statements designed to give a clearer picture of transactions involving schools. Copies of the proposed new financial statements were available for examination.

Mr. Shogren said his special interest was in connection with the County Statements and added that he was glad to support Don Bruce and the Department of Municipal Affairs in commending the changes referred to. He said there has been a need for more than an arbitrary breakdown regarding costs of school administration and, further, that more specific figures were necessary because the present grants formula was partly based on school expenditures.

Objection to making the change at this time was taken from the floor. It was felt that with the change of book keeping involved, the new statements should be postponed for another year. Criticism was also voiced that "departmentalizing" tended to defeat the county idea. This was denied inasmuch as there was no change whatever in administration.

An address by G. Sterling, official of the Department of Agriculture, on "The Farm Purchase Credit Act and Amendments" completed the well-filled morning session. With the afternoon devoted to unfinished business and an inaugural meeting of the newly elected executive, the twenty-first Annual Refresher Course in municipal administration - "the Coming of Age Course" - ended on a note of enthusiastic approval.

The idea born in the minds of municipal district secretary-treasurers back in 1938 had indeed attained its majority. It had crossed "the threshold of manhood".

THE COURSE COMES OF AGE

(From Page 3)

of this Province has been through his work as one of us and as a former member of the Legislative Assembly. I cannot recall any other member of our Association who has gained a seat in the Legislature although a number have tried.

An association lives through its members and expresses itself through its officers. To give you a complete list of all the officers who have served you is a formidable task that I have to side-step because of incomplete data. However, I do have the record of your Presidents. No. 1 was William G. Way of Strathmore; No. 2 William Hinde of Calgary; No. 3 William J. Brady of Edberg; No. 4 D.N. Gardiner of Calgary; No. 5 Reginald F. Lawrence of Calgary; No. 6 W.E. Stuchbury, Q.C., Westlock; No. 7 William F. Broadstock, Stony Plain; No. 8 D.D. McQueen, Vulcan; No. 9 Frank J. Ewing, Rockyford; No. 10 Leonard C. Van Tighem, High River; No. 11 William H. Stringer, Red Deer; No. 12 W.A. Bradbury, Leduc and the present incumbent No. 13 Olaf Monsson of Ryley.

ORIGINAL OBJECTS

In the Constitution and By-laws as originally drafted Article 3 sets out the "Objects" of the Association as follows:

- (1) To work in conjunction with any other organization having as its object the betterment of all branches of municipal government.
- (2) To protect the interests of the councils of the various municipal districts and the public by insisting on a proper educational standard for all its members and a high degree of honor and efficiency;
- (3) To mutually assist each other in standardizing the work, methods, and forms used, and in solving various Acts now in force, or which may hereafter be enacted, dealing with the matter of rural municipal taxation in the Province;
- (4) To secure a standard of efficiency for Secretary-Treasurers of municipal districts and to seek to secure legislation under which an examination for the position of Secretary-Treasurer shall be determined; and
- (5) To obtain recognition of the importance and the responsibility of the work performed by municipal district secretary-treasurers and to protect the members of the Association in carrying out their duties in accordance with the law and the dictates of honor and integrity.

Through good times, tough ones too, your elected representatives have tried to keep these "objects" constantly before them as their guide in directing your affairs. Many years before the first refresher course your executives investigated the possibility of introducing correspondence home study courses for your consideration. Some of these were from commercial correspondence schools and some investigation was made of outside universities as to what they might have to offer. I have to say that in those early days we had to take serious thought of costs and were governed by that in our approach to the educational aspect of our objects. It was found that commercial correspondence schools did not have a course that would fit our needs at a price that we felt our members could afford to pay. In the higher academic brackets the basic educational admission qualifications required barred better than 75% of our then membership. All universities contacted had a minimum admission requirement of senior matriculation or better. So we had to look to some other source for our educational betterment.

Throughout all this we had unfailing sources of help to which we could always turn. First, we had the driving force of Albert Tovell of the Hail Insurance Board; second, we had the encouragement given us by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts, and lastly, but not least, we had our perennial friends and instructors, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and the various members of the Departmental staff.

In this exploratory period we tried to hold local meetings between the annual meetings of the association. At these we discussed the problems affecting us locally and tried to follow procedures that would benefit all, either in the immediate locality or on a province-wide basis. Again we were faced with the task of pulling ourselves up by our boot-straps. And some of the boot-straps wouldn't stand the strain.

Looking back at our early meetings, one is impressed by the changing problem we had to face and the attention that members of the government, and their staffs, gave in trying to convey to us the proper intent of legislation. Usually the instruction was confined to that from the Department of Municipal Affairs. Looking at old reports of our Annual Convention we do not find any other Department than Municipal Affairs represented until 1936 when we had an address by W. D. Milne, Supervisor of Municipal Hospitals of the Department of Public Health. He dealt with the "Hospitals Act". It is unfortunate that his address was not reported in detail.

FIRST REFRESHER COURSE

In 1937 we had a visit to the Convention of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts of Mr. John Spalding, Secretary of the Manitoba Municipal Association, and in conversation with him we learned the University of Manitoba was conducting a short course in Municipal Administration. Their short course had been under the direction of the Department of Extension and had the blessing of their President, the late Sidney Smith. We obtained copies of the addresses that had been given at the Course and thoroughly enjoyed reading them. It crystallized our thinking and gave us an immediate lead to where we could turn for more help in Alberta.

We had not realized that one of the functions of the Department of Extension of our University was to promote continuing adult education. As soon as that did get through to us we contacted the Director, Mr. (now Senator) Donald Cameron, to see what we could do here in Alberta. Our reception by Mr. Cameron was very cordial and he expressed the opinion that possibly we could work something out. Voluminous correspondence ensued in 1937 and the executive of the Association brought the proposal before the 16th Annual Convention to obtain the reaction of the members to the proposals. At that time it was envisioned that the course would occupy from noon of a Monday to the evening of the following Friday. From 9 a.m. on the Monday morning until noon would be devoted to the routine business of the Association. Saturday would be reserved for interviews with officials of the various Departments. (That was before the days of Saturday closing). A banquet might be sandwiched in around the middle of the week provided that it was an affair outside of the tuition periods.

Residence and tuition was to be on the campus of the University. Board and room was quoted at \$2.50 per day per person for those living in residences at the University. These were the quotations that we made to the 16th Annual Convention in the Council Chamber of the Parliament Buildings in Edmonton on June 8, 1938. Members at that meeting gave approval to the idea and a start was made to organize the 1st Refresher Course for 1939.

Being at the tail end of the rough thirties (although we didn't realize it then) it was decided that instead of proceeding with a five-day course we should limit our period to three days. In the announcement of the first course we find the following under "Who May Attend". It says:

"All Secretary-Treasurers and officials of rural and urban municipalities in the Province together with trustees and secretaries of school districts and interested citizens."

So you will see that once having had that all important spark plug in operation, (Mr. Donald Cameron), we opened up the course to give as many as possible the opportunity to share with us the benefits of further education.

INTRODUCTION BY CAMERON

In the introduction which Mr. Cameron gave to the First Course, he had this to say concerning it:

"The last few years have been trying ones for all people who have been in any way faced with the responsibilities of public office, and to no group of men has the task been more arduous than to those officials whose duty it has been to guide the destinies of local municipal government. Recognizing the need for having the advice and counsel of the best authorities on municipal government made freely available to all those charged with the administration of municipal affairs, the University has been glad to accede to the request of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers to organize a Refresher Course in Municipal Administration.

"In bringing together for a few days of lectures and discussions those men whose training and experience qualify them to speak with authority in their respective fields, a fine opportunity will be provided for interested officials to gain new knowledge concerning legal, financial, administrative and social phases of municipal administration. It is in the interests of higher standards and more efficient administration that this course is offered."

These sentiments have been endorsed annually for the past 20 years and can again be reiterated on this our 21st anniversary.

THRESHOLD OF MANHOOD

The celebration of a 21st anniversary implies five things which to me are: birth, infancy, youth, adolescence, the threshold of manhood.

We now stand on the threshold of a new era. Our inauguration took place in 1939, we staggered through the stages of infancy, cut our teeth on the hard realities of work and study; graduated from youth to adolescence in an appreciation of having done something worthwhile and now look through the open door of manhood. (Next Page)

Our 21 refresher courses have carried us this far and in that period we have gained a great deal of knowledge of inestimable value. I do not propose to recite to you all the participants in the past courses nor to deal with their subjects in detail. Suffice it to say that when I count the actual pages of material covering the last 20 courses and find that they total in excess of 2000 pages of foolscap typewritten material that the absorption of all of that cannot help but leave one better qualified for his job.

It is now about time for me to wind up this address and to say a very few words of appreciation for the New Public Administration Course which has been offered by the Department of Extension of the University.

Those of you who have studied the Course during the past fall, winter and spring will have as deep an appreciation as I have for the composition of the course, the material offered for study, the references to supplementary reading, the personal instruction received through the seminars and the fairness of the examinations at the end of the course. My personal evaluation of the new course is that I would not want to be without it. I recommend it whole-heartedly to all those engaged in municipal administration. ●

The WHITECOURT STORY

(From Page 4)

made a request to the Minister that they be represented on a local planning commission. Subsequent to this request a Planning Advisory Commission was established by Ministerial Order in October 1957 consisting of five local residents and a member from the Town and Rural Planning Branch.

The restrictions on development - or "freeze order" as it was called - was lifted in March, 1958, and the Town and Rural Planning Branch produced a zoning map together with proposed building regulations. These were placed before the residents at a public meeting and were adopted unanimously.

The Interim Development Order stipulated that before any development could take place a permit had to be obtained from the development officer. The local commission performed a very useful service in this respect, receiving applications and dispensing information in the absence of the development officer, and examining all plans submitted with applications. The development officer was able to turn to this commission for much advice on local matters, and solicited its recommendation before a permit was issued. It is interesting to observe that over 100 development and building permits were issued between August, 1957 and March, 1959, each application being subjected to scrutiny by the local commission with inspections carried out during the building stage. Also of interest is the fact that no appeals against the development officer's decision were made during this period in respect of development applications that were not granted.

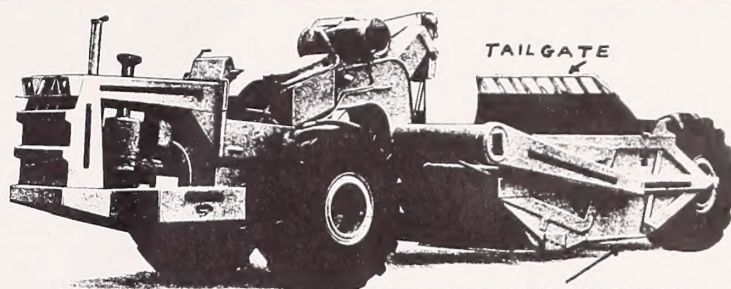
The influence of planning stimulated the whole hamlet, and everyone began to take an interest in local affairs. A campaign to raise funds to build a fire hall was successful and the village now boasts a very efficient fire fighting unit. The Whitecourt branch of The Canadian Legion and the Lion's Club both are very active, proof of which can be found in the new park area in the northern section of the village. Here two excellent baseball diamonds have been laid out, one complete with bleachers and a parking area. The whole park is a credit to the village.

UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

Whitecourt has long been recognized as one of Alberta's major lumbering centres and millions of board feet of lumber are shipped out by way of the village each year. In addition, thousands of ties are produced annually, and the cutting and shipping of pulpwood for the pulp mills is increasing. It is the fond dream of the residents that some day the pulpwood industry will realize the potential which exists in the area and will build a pulp mill there - for according to surveys the situation is perfect - plenty of timber, plenty of water, good access by rail and road, all close to a vigorous town with unlimited expansion possibilities.

The recent activity in the oil fields to the north has brought new industry to the village. For years a trail has led from Whitecourt into the hilly regions known as the Swan Hills and the Virginia Hills, and much of the traffic connected with the oil industry has passed over this road. Oil field supply companies have established offices and warehouses in the village, and the tempo of trade has increased considerably. Population of the village is also increasing and has necessitated an increase in school facilities. With twelve classrooms and a fine auditorium, Whitecourt residents are justifiably proud of their school. In fact, Whitecourt residents are justifiably proud . . . of Whitecourt. ●

SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT



On May 1, 1959, a 53-year-old serviceman was fatally injured when, in the course of his duties, he was run over by a scraper.

The accident occurred while the deceased was greasing the sheaves and rollers of the tailgate assembly. To service the sheaves the tailgate was put in the "forward" position, and the serviceman stood between the tailgate and the back end of the scraper. While in this position, the operator, unaware that anyone was working on the scraper, started the unit and moved same.

An inquest was held, and it was recommended by the Coroner's Jury that the following practices be adhered to:

1. Ignition keys be removed and retained by service personnel when working on the equipment.
2. A sign be placed on controls pointing out that someone is working on the machinery.
3. Continuous instructions be given personnel relating to safe operating procedures.

This type of accident emphasizes the need for closer surveillance on the part of vehicle operators before moving equipment to prevent accidents of this nature. Remember, Cautionary Measures Preserve Life and Limb.

W.E. Sutton,
Chief Factory Inspector.

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BOOK REVIEW

DYNAMIC DECADE
By Eric J. Hanson

In the years since the discovery of oil at Leduc, Alberta, in 1947, exciting and dramatic changes have taken place not only in the province but in the whole of the Canadian economy.

From a "have-not" province with little industry and a static population, Alberta has become one of the wealthiest parts of the country with an ever increasing population and rising revenues derived either directly or indirectly from the expanding oil industry. Foreign investment in Canada's natural resources—much of it drawn from abroad because of the dramatic oil "strikes"—has helped to make the Canadian dollar one of the world's hardest currencies, while oil itself has become a Canadian export.

In *Dynamic Decade* Eric J. Hanson has told the amazing story of the great oil discoveries and their far-reaching consequences for Alberta and for Canada. Here is the account of the "bringing-in" of Imperial-Leduc #1, the first successful well in that field and the forerunner of an unprecedented series of finds which have included the giant Redwater field, Pembina, and a host of others.

He describes how the oil companies, large and small, have all had their share in the exploration and development work, and of the multiplicity and variety of labour involved—from the original financing and employment of geological and drilling crews to the labour of engineers, architects, and construction workers. He relates how other industries, attracted both by new and economical fuel supplies and the larger market created by the growing population, have been established in Alberta, and how new towns rose on what had been bald prairie or bushland before the oil crews came.

Invaluable as a history and reference work for all those connected with the oil industry, with finance, government, and economic and sociological study, *Dynamic Decade* also provides hours of fascinating reading for any layman who is interested in the shape of things to come in the latter half of this—Canada's Century.

Eric Hanson is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta. His articles have appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, in the *Canadian Tax Journal* and in other magazines. He is the author of *Local Government in Alberta*. ●

LONG IN THE SERVICE



FRANK EWING

Frank J. Ewing, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Wheatland No. 40, first entered municipal service with the old M.D. of Keoma No. 249 on May 28, 1921. Secretary-Treasurer of the M.D. of Serviceberry from 1943 he has been with Wheatland since its enlargement in 1955.

Mr. Ewing, a youthful 62, considers May 28 has special significance for him. In addition to starting his career on that date, he points out that his only child Betty Anne, age 16, graduated from high school on May 28, last. It's also his birthday for he was born on May 28, 1897.

Born in Simcoe County, Ontario, Mr. Ewing came to Alberta in March of 1910. He took his high school at Carstairs and taught school at Crossfield and Three Hills for a time. Then came the World War I during which Frank served as a flying instructor in the R.A.F. with the rank of First Lieutenant.

In the municipal field, Mr. Ewing has served on the executive of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers for ten years, during which time he had much to do with the introduction of a stream-lined accounting system. He also introduced the first loose leaf tax roll in Alberta and used the idea for nine years before it was adopted on a province-wide basis.

On July 1, 1946, Mr. Ewing organized a superannuation plan for municipal secretary-treasurers and has served as chairman of the resulting Superannuation Committee ever since. Frank is confident his work in this field is going to bring results because there are indications that the plan will receive government attention in the near future.

Mr. Ewing was president of the Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers in 1949 and 1950 and during his term he brought the refresher course to the Banff School of Fine Arts for the first time. He has also served terms as the mayor of Irricana and of Rockyford.

With a twinkle, Mr. Ewing will tell you that his municipal service has been on something of a part time basis and with anyone else this could well be true. Until recently he held clear title to 1830 acres in the Irricana-Rockyford district but has sold most of it during the past two years.

For hobbies, Frank was a proficient photographer and still owns several fine cameras and other photographic equipment. His home at Strathmore contains a splendid collection of oil paintings, the work of his charming wife and himself.

"I'm very fond of painting," said this remarkable man, "I wish I had more time for it."



SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

Municipal District Act

Every Month

5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month, secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Town and Village Act

August 15 - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare monthly cash statement and submit it to next meeting of the council. Sec. 67(r).

August 15 - Voters list to be prepared by Secretary-treasurer prior to August 15. Sec. 113(1).

August 15 - Voters list to be posted prior to August 15. Sec. 113(1).

August 15 - Voters list certified correct by August 15. Sec. 115.

August 16 - Post notice of completion of voters list by August 16. Sec. 116.

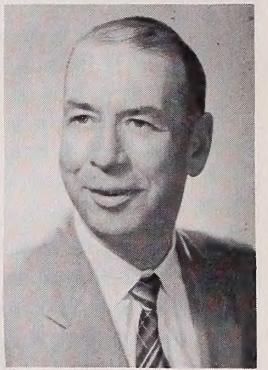
Voters list (application for addition of names must be received by Secretary-treasurer prior to September 6.) Sec. 117 and 120.

Tax Recovery Act

August 1 - Not later than August 1st Land Titles Office shall notify registered owners, etc., of Tax Arrears List.

MACKENZIE LEAVES DMA

Liaison Officer with the Department of Municipal Affairs for the past four years, A. Blake MacKenzie left government service June 30 to assume active management of his own firm, Angus Marshall Limited, Public Relations Counsel, of Edmonton.



BLAKE MacKENZIE

Mr. MacKenzie came to the Department from Economic Affairs where he had been Co-ordinator of Cultural Activities from 1951 to 1955. While with the Department of Economic Affairs, he was responsible for the organization of Alberta craft centres and the first regional library at Lacombe.

Born at Edmonton, August 7, 1914, Mr. MacKenzie attended Cromdale, Alex Taylor, Eastwood High School, and the University of Alberta. His parents, the late A.B. MacKenzie and Barbara Blake were employees of the Department of Municipal Affairs when it was organized in 1912.

With the outbreak of World War II, Blake joined the RCAF and became one of the first graduates of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. He served overseas as an Air Observer, completing one tour of operations in torpedo bombers after which he returned to Canada as an Instructor. Re-mustering as a pilot in 1943, at the end of the war he was Senior Administrative Officer at Paulson, Manitoba, retiring with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Then followed a year at CFRN as Continuity Editor. Leaving radio, Mr. MacKenzie became the manager of Canadian Productions Limited and later opened his own firm for concert management and theatrical promotion. During this period he handled transcontinental tours for Bert Pearl and the Happy Gang, Stan Francis and his Company, as well as The Breden-Savoy Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company. It was this background in the theatre that led to his appointment as Co-ordinator of Cultural Activities.

Married, with one daughter, Donna, Blake is an active member of the Canadian Authors' Association, Rotary International, Patricia Lodge No. 91 A.F. & A.M., RCAF Association and the Canadian Legion.

PETER MacDONALD RETIRES

(From Page 1)

watch by the County Council while the office staff gave him engraved cuff links and bar. Mrs. MacDonald was presented with a corsage.

Mr. MacDonald's service dates from 1927 when he became Secretary-Treasurer of the M.D. of Fertile Valley #429. With the enlargement of the district to form the M.D. of Ponoka #66 he assumed the new position, and when the County of Ponoka was formed in 1952 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of Alberta's third county.

Celebrating his 71st birthday on July 30, Mr. MacDonald plans on doing "some fishing" this summer. He intends to remain in Ponoka.

NEW EXECUTIVE



The 39th ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers, held at Banff in conjunction with the twenty-first Refresher Course of the Association, elected a new executive for 1959-60. Seated: Olaf Monsson (Beaver County), Past President; Lloyd Williams (Stettler County) President; Gordon King (Kneehill M.D.) Secretary. Standing: R.M. Antoniuk (Smoky Lake M.D.), Director; L.C. Van Tighem (Foothills M.D.), Director; Guy Tomlinson (Paintearth M.D.), Vice President; R.H. Smith (Flagstaff M.D.) Director.